

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/593,406

Examiner

Kambiz Abdi

Applicant(s)

ROSENAU ET AL.

Art Unit

3621

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment received on 14 July 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-14.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 29 November 2002 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. The text prior office actions are incorporated in this office action by reference. Applicant has filed an amendment/argument after an office action mailed on 6 April 2004, which has been entered.

- Claim 1 has been amended.
- No claim has been cancelled.
- No claim has been added.
- Claims 1-14 have been allowed.

Examiner's Amendment

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

3. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with attorney Steven Noll on 4 August 2004.

The examiner under agreement by the attorney representing the applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 9.

The claim in the application has been amended as follow:

4. Claim 1. An arrangement for generating a security imprint comprising:
- a security module containing a first program memory in which a first program is stored and a security module data processing unit connected to said first program memory and being programmed by said first program to calculate a multi-byte security code from existing system data and to be able to receive new system data to modify said existing system data;
- a separate data processing unit disposed externally of said security module and having a second program memory in which a second program is stored, said separate data processing unit being programmed by said second program to edit print data to compile

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a print image that contains said security code as a security imprint and that embodies a monetary value for franking a mail item;

said security module data processing unit being further programmed by said first program to, immediately upon receipt of said new system data, validate said new system data and determine whether said new system data are required for said security code and, only if so, to immediately begin recalculating a portion of said security code in a first routine and, in a second routine, to finish recalculating said security code for at least one security imprint, thereby producing a recalculated security code, and to initiate an accounting operation for said monetary value and to communicate the recalculated security code to said separate data processing unit; and

said separate data processing unit, upon receiving said recalculated security code, compiling said print image containing said recalculated security code as a security imprint and embodying said monetary value.

5. Claim 9. A method for generating a security imprint, comprising the steps of:

providing a security module containing a security module data processing unit;

presetting all system data required for calculating a security code and, only upon receipt of new system data requiring a re-calculation of the security code, in said security module data processing unit immediately validating said new system data and re-calculating said security code using said new system data, by immediately beginning re-calculating a portion of said security code in a first routine, and a second routine, finishing re-calculating the security code to produce a re-calculated security code;

also in said security module data processing unit, calculating an ascending register value for a monetary value associated with said new system data; and

communicating the re-calculated security code to a separate data processing unit external of said security module and, in said separate data processing unit, compiling a print image, including said security code as a security imprint and printing said print image.

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Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 1-14 are allowed over the prior art of record.

The following is an examiner's statement of reason for allowance:

7. The closest prior art of record is U.S. Patent No. 4,858,138 to Paul C. Talmadge and U.S. Patent No. 4,649,266 to Alton B. Eckert provides for methods and system for calculating a validation security code and franking of an indicia containing such security code. Talmadge teaches the method and a system of how the security vault module and the host module are coupled to generate an encrypted validation number (security code) and fixed pattern of the indicia for franking on a document. Eckert teaches the well-known method and system of calculating the encrypted number code for authentication of postages. What is not thought is the pre-calculation of portion of the security code, which is substantially constant based on the constant data in the system and utilizing this pre-calculated data in the first routine to expedite the final calculation of the security code in the second routine.

8. The closest foreign prior art of record is German Patent No. DE 19757652 to GUENTHER et al., and the NPL cited in the application, titled "Information Based Indicia Program Postal Security Device Specification," United States Postal Service, June 13, 1996.

9. In regards to claims 1 and 9, the closest prior art of record when taken either individually or in combination with other prior art of record fails to teach or suggest the step of a pre-calculation of portion of the security code to be used in a first routine based on the consistency of system data and utilization of the pre-calculated portion to calculate a security code in a second routine that is used to create an indicia to be franked on a mail item. If the system data changes the first routine immediately pre-calculates a new portion for the security code based on the new system data.

10. Claims 2-8 are dependent upon claim 1 and claims 10-14 are dependent upon claim 9, thus they all have the limitations of claims 1 and 9, therefore, they are allowable for that same reason stated above.

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Conclusion

11. Any comments considered necessary by the applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issues fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submission should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kambiz Abdi whose telephone number is (703) 305-3364. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30 AM to 5:00 PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James P. Trammell can be reached on (703) 305-9768.

13. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

**Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington D.C. 20231**

or faxed to:

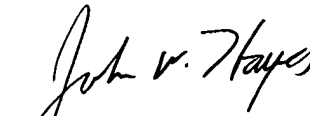
(703) 305-7687 [Official communications; including After Final communications labeled "Box AF"]

(703) 746-7749 [Informal/Draft communications, labeled "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT"]

Hand delivered responses should be brought to:

**Crystal Park 5, 2451 Crystal Drive
7th floor receptionist, Arlington, VA, 22202**

**Abdi/K
August 4, 2004**


**JOHN W. HAYES
PRIMARY EXAMINER**